

THE ל'פ"ח SHEKEL

VOLUME 1, No. 3

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HIGHLIGHTS

Coin-Medals, An Abandoned Idea

Jewish Medals in the Netherlands

Trends in Paper Money

Bank of Israel Announcement

Jerusalem-Aelia Capitolina

Meshorer's Book, Reviewed

A Glimpse into the Future

The Story of Minting

Aleph Beth Page

Club News, and others

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Published by the American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc.

A.I.N.A. NEWS RELEASE

A.I.N.A. Adopts Haffner's New Book as its Official Guide

The Board of Directors of A.I.N.A., after considering various possibilities, has unanimously decided to sponsor and adopt Sylvia Haffner's new catalog, "The History of Modern Israel's Money", as its first official guide for Israel coinage.

While our members may have come to know Mrs. Haffner best through her series of articles in "THE SHEKEL", she is also recognized as a numismatic authority by many publishers in the U.S. and abroad, and has received world-wide reputation with her first catalog of Modern Israel coinage. In the field of Israel numismatics, Sylvia Haffner is a foremost and leading authority. An active member of the A.N.A., Mrs. Haffner is also one of the founders and most active members of our A.I.N.A.

Early in 1968, during a visit to Israel which she devoted to meeting with leading Israeli numismatists, and to thorough research, Mrs. Haffner discovered many new factors, which have never been published before. These, together with the coming 1969 issues, will make her catalog the most comprehensive manual of Israel coinage issued to date.

Since we believe that no Israel coin collection can be complete without this manual, we are making special arrangements to enable our members to obtain it through our organization, and will dedicate any profit from the proceeds to our cultural and educational activities, as well as to a contribution which we hope to present, in full cooperation with the author, to the Kadman Numismatic Museum during our visit in Israel.

Further information can be obtained from A.I.N.A., P. O. Box 3194 Church Street Station, New York, N. Y. 10008.

DEAR MEMBER:

Please make early reservations for the trip to Jerusalem in March, 1969. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity. Contact A.I.N.A. today.

The SHEKEL

ל'פ'ו

Volume 1 No. 3 • Autumn 1968

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. THE SHEKEL will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, THE SHEKEL will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM... Yesterday it was still a dream. Today it has already become a reality. It is only yesterday that we dreamed of an organization of our own, which would have as its members collectors dedicated to Israel coinage, to the study of its history and the understanding of the eternal connection between ancient and modern Israel; we dreamed of a body of collectors from all over the world to whom phrases like "Judea Capta—Israel Liberated" and "Masada shall not fall again" would have significance and meaning beyond their inscription on the medal. Our dreams of yesterday have come true, and today we say "Next year in Jerusalem"!

We could not find a better way to acquaint ourselves with places that echo the events of years past, to make the pieces of metal in our collection come alive in our hands, than a visit to all these places—a trip to Israel, where past and present meet.

For some this may be their first trip to Israel. These we envy. The others may be inspired by the numismatic aspect of the trip. But we all will share the pleasure of meeting our fellow collectors, and the excitement of seeing Israel through its numismatics.

MORRIS BRAM, President

THE EDITOR'S COLUMN



KINDLER: We welcome Mr. ARIE KINDLER, director of the Kadman Numismatic Museum in Israel, as the new Associate Editor, and Numismatic Consultant of THE SHEKEL. This is a great honor to A.I.N.A. and to THE SHEKEL. His first article for us appears in this issue.

MESHORER: Our other outstanding Numismatic Consultant, Mr. YAAKOV MESHORER, was appointed Director of the Antiquities Department of the West Bank.

HAFFNER: A.I.N.A. has adopted Mrs. SYLVIA HAFFNER'S forthcoming book on Israeli Numismatics as their official Guide of Modern Israel's Money. We are inaugurating a new first—Trends in Israel's Moneys, prepared by Mrs. Haffner, which will be a regular feature.

BOOK REVIEWS: With this issue we are also inaugurating our first book review, as a further educational aid to our readers.

REPRINTS: We intend, in subsequent issues, to occasionally offer interesting reprints and excerpts to our readers. We feel that with these three firsts, we will further stimulate interest in the fascinating field of Israeli Numismatics.

NATHAN SOBEL, Editor

A.I.N.A. EDITORIAL

JERUSALEM CONVENTION: The trip is planned for March 8-March 18, 1969.

A.I.N.A. will be hosted by the Israel Numismatic Society, and the program will include trips and meeting with Israel leaders and collectors.

The cost of the trip includes round trip fare, 10 days hotel accommodations including breakfast and dinner.

HAFFNER'S BOOK: The Board of Directors of A.I.N.A. has adopted the forthcoming book "The History of Modern Israel's Money" by Sylvia Haffner, as their official guide to Israeli numismatics. As sponsors we feel that this is the latest outstanding publication on this subject.

Israel Announces 1969 Specimen Set Featuring 21st Anniversary Theme In A Pre-Holiday Issue

The official specimen sets of the Government of Israel's 1969 coins, are scheduled to be issued in December, 1968. They will feature the 21st anniversary of the founding of Israel.

For the first time in the history of the issuance of Israel's specimen sets, the coins will be made available before the holiday season.

The 6-coin specimen set will include a newly minted 1 Lira (1 pound), the $\frac{1}{2}$ Lira, 25 Agorot, 10 Agorot, 5 Agorot and 1 Agora coins. Each bears the date 5729 in Hebrew with ancient and traditional Hebrew themes interpreted by Israeli artists for the basic coin designs.

The coins are being minted from highly polished dies to provide handsome, clearly defined reproduction with all coins in the sets protected in a special 21st Anniversary commemorative die-cut presentation holder.

Joseph Milo, Assistant Trade Commissioner of the Government of Israel announced that more than 3,000 banking offices in numerous countries around the world are accepting advance orders for these specimen sets to satisfy the demands of coin collectors and friends of Israel.

A special one week international sale will be conducted simultaneously in all banking offices for their customers and the general public in early December, 1968, as scheduled by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, the only official organization for worldwide distribution of Israel coins and State medals. The official Israel specimen set of six coins will sell through banks for \$3.50 per set which includes 50¢ per set for handling, excluding local sales tax.

Advance orders may be placed with

many local banks and by mail with the Israel Discount Bank Limited, P. O. Box 1655, Grand Central Station, New York, New York 10017, by the American Bank & Trust Company, P. O. Box 233, Wall Street Station, New York, New York 10005 through November 15, 1968, by the Crocker-Citizens National Bank (the International Banking Department) 1 Sansome Street, San Francisco, California 94120, and the Bank of Montreal, 119 St. James Street West, Montreal, P.Q. "Since the official week of issue precedes the holiday season, the government of Israel has made a special arrangement whereby collectors and friends of Israel placing reservations may have the special privilege of obtaining up to ten specimen sets instead of five sets as in previous years", stated Mr. Milo.

Information about the Israel 1969 specimen set and other official coins and State medals may be obtained from the office of the Assistant Trade Commissioner, Government of Israel, 850 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022.

The photographs of the 1969 Specimen Set appear on page 27.

MR. ARIE KINDLER who is the Director and Curator of the Kadman Numismatic Museum in Tel-Aviv, Israel, is a world renowned authority on ancient, as well as modern numismatics. He has written numerous books and other publications on the subject. Mr. Kindler is also widely known for his participation in various international numismatic conventions, and his lectures.

Commemorative Coin-Medals An Abandoned Idea

by Arie Kindler⁽¹⁾

In 1954 a suggestion was made to issue a series of coin-medals to commemorate the renewal of minting activity in Israel. The matter was informally discussed at the Advisory Committee for the Design of Coins, Commemorative Coins, and Bank-notes, which was then attached to the Israel Government Printing Office. Mr. S. Golan, the present Government Printer, dealt with the matter on behalf of the office.

The late Dr. Leo Kadman, who was a member of the Advisory Committee at that time showed me a number of sample strikings of this proposed issue. These samples were subsequently presented by him to the Kadman Numismatic Museum, to be permanently exhibited.

Description of the Coin-Medals

METAL: Cupro-Nickel; **mint:** Utrecht, Holland; **year of issue:** 1954. (Typ. all three coin-medals).

(1). Weight: 7.60 grs.; size: 25.5mm. (1.00 in.) diam.



Obverse



Reverse

Obverse: Palm-tree with seven branches and two bunches of grapes. Border of dots. Legend: In two lines across field on both sides of the trunk of the palm-tree (in ancient Hebrew letters): Jerusalem.

⁽¹⁾ See page 4 bottom.

Reverse: Palm-tree with seven branches and two bunches of grapes. Border of dots. Legend: Around from right below: The renewal of Israel's mint. Below in two lines, the dates 3892 over 5714.

(2). Weight: 5.60 grs.; size: 23 mm. (0.91 in.) diam.



Obverse



Reverse

Obverse: Vine-leaf hanging from a branch with tendril. Border of dots. Legend: Around from left above (in ancient Hebrew letters): For the freedom of Jerusalem.

Reverse: Vine-leaf hanging from a branch on which hangs also a small bunch of grapes. Border of dots. Legend: Around from right below: The renewal of Israel's mint. Below in two lines, the dates 3892 over 5714.

(3). Weight: 2.50 grs.; size: 19.5 mm. (0.77 in.) diam.



Obverse



Reverse

Obverse: Bunch of grapes hanging from a branch from which also hangs a small vine-leaf. Border of dots. Legend: Around from left above (in ancient Hebrew letters):

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Year one for the redemption of Israel.

Reverse: Bunch of grapes hanging from a branch with tendril. Border of dots. Legend: Around from right below. The renewal of Israel's mint. Below in two lines, the dates 3892 over 5714.

A variant of No. 3 also exists in the Kadman Numismatic Museum; this was struck with the ordinary die of the 25 Prutah coin, i.e., the bunch of grapes, with the Hebrew inscription "Israel" above, and with "Israel" in Arabic below. However, the other side of this coin medal is the obverse of No. 3, as described above.

Mr. Golan informed the author that no decision was ever made by any authoritative body to issue these commemorative coin-medals, which were intended for propaganda, and gift purposes. The whole idea arose before the Bank of Israel was yet established, which was in December 1954. After discussion with the management of the new national bank, the scheme was abandoned so as not to conflict with the government plans for an imminent issue of commemorative coins.

The concept for the commemorative coin-medals, was dictated by the fact that the emblems and motifs of the coins of the State of Israel, were derived from ancient Jewish coins, i.e., the palm-tree and the bunch of grapes from the coins of the Bar-Kochba War (132-135 A.D.), and the vine-leaf from the coins of the Jewish War (66-70 A.D.). Thus, the shape of the ancient coin was depicted on one side and the parallel emblem as it appears on the first series of coins of the State of Israel on the other. Around this modern emblem the legend reads: "The renewal of Israel's mint," and the date: 3892-5714, i.e., year 3892 of the

Jewish era, the year when the Bar-Kochba War started (132 A.D.) and which is indicated on the coins of that war as "Year one for the redemption of Israel" (see No. 3), as well as the year of issue of this coin-medal, 5714, namely, 1822 years after the beginning of the Bar-Kochba War.

It is worth remarking that the vine-leaf that appears on the side that imitates the ancient coin (see No. 2), was taken from the coins of the Bar-Kochba War. The side symbolizing the modern coin was taken from the coins of the Jewish War, more specifically from the small bronze pieces (prutoth) of the second and third year of that war.

Artistically, the imitated emblems are much poorer than the ones on the ancient prototypes. Especially poor is the bunch of grapes.

The dies were prepared by the Utrecht mint in Holland. The mint kindly presented the enlarged bronze medals 150 mm. diam. (5.91 in.) of the commemorative coin-medals to the Kadman Numismatic Museum.

The author would like to thank Mr. S. Golan, the Israel Government Printer, for kindly supplying me the information for this article.

If we call it a wheel, nobody will know what it is, we had better call it a COIN.



BANK OF ISRAEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The following mintage figures were received from the Bank of Israel on the *One Pound Chanuka Commemoratives*. These figures represent the new mintages after the melting of surplus coins found in the Bank:

Date	Type	Number		Net Mintage
		Melted	Minted	
1958	The Law is Light	Reg. 100,000	250,000	150,000
		Proof —	5,000	5,000
1960	Degania	Reg. 50,000	100,000	50,000
		Proof —	5,000	5,000
1960	Szold	Reg. 117	17,000	16,683
		Proof —	3,000	3,000
1961	Maccabi	Reg. 1,085	20,001	18,916
		Proof 572	10,000	9,428
1962	Candelabra I	Reg. 433	10,090	9,657
		Proof 60	6,100	6,040
1963	Candelabra	Reg. —	10,000	10,000
		Proof —	5,500	5,500

The One Pound-Lira of the old design with the Menora with a total mintage of 4,848,119 has been demonetized in August of 1968 with 3,076,500 pieces having been removed from circulation. This leaves a balance of 1,771,619 pieces still in circulation. Of this amount approximately 497,000 are in the yearly proof-like sets of 1963, 1965, 1966 and 1967, leaving approximately 1,274,619 pieces still unaccounted for.

Mintage Figures for the Independence Commemorative Coin 1968 "Jerusalem"

Silver, 10 lb. 900/1000

Regular 50,000

Proof 20,501

Gold, 100 lb. 800/1000

Proof 12,500

Mint: Swiss Federal Mint, Berne

Definition of Medals, Tokens and Coins

No matter where a collector starts, he invariably comes into contact with at least three different kinds of metallic numismatic items: *Coins, tokens and medals*. Similar as they might be in size, shape and appearance, this is where the likeness ends.

Both coins and tokens have real or implied exchange value; medals do not.

Coins are issued by governmental bodies, which either have untested right, or assume the right, to issue them. Thus, issues of revolutionary governments, cities under siege, or provisional governments are all considered to be coins.

Tokens are issued under private auspices with a real or implied value. The implication may be merely by similarity in size or metal to an existing denomination of coin. Or it may be stated on the token that it is good for some particular commodity or service.

Medals, on the other hand, are strictly memorial and are issued with no intention of being used in commercial exchange.

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April 29, 1968

Mr. Morris Bram
American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 3194
Church Street Station
New York, New York 10008

Dear Mr. Bram:

I wish to thank you sincerely for your kind gesture for including me as a member in the newly formed American Israel Numismatic Association. I hope that it will be possible for me to attend an occasional meeting and hope that you will call upon me if there is anything I can do to further the aims of your organization.

WHITMAN PUBLISHING

R. S. Yeoman
R. S. Yeoman
Managing Editor

A Letter from Mr. R. S. Yeoman to the
President of A.I.N.A.

Jewish Medals in the Netherlands*

by Matthew J. Van Der Voort



In 1958, the well known numismatic firm of Jacques Schulman of Amsterdam, issued a catalog of Jewish medals in the Netherlands. It was compiled by the noted Dutch expert in Judaica, Dr. Arthur Polak. Studying his extensive collection of Jewish medals, Dr. Polak recognized that he owed it to numismatics to compile this catalog, reflecting the history of Jewry in the Low Countries throughout the centuries. Quite a few Jews have distinguished themselves in Dutch cultural and scientific fields, a fact that is not generally known.

The catalog lists no less than 92 items of which 77 are illustrated. It will interest the readers of *The Shekel* to know that the catalog includes the descriptions of the so-called "Shekel medals", small sized 29 mm diameter medals issued during the "Shekel week" of June 5-10, 1921. The obverse of these interesting medals shows an overflowing cup and the inscription Shekel Yisrael (Shekel of Israel) in Hebrew characters; the reverse shows an olive tree and the inscription Yerushalayim Hakedosha, also in Hebrew characters. Dr. Polak describes two varieties, one with a loop and ring struck in silver and brass and another in brass with the inscription in a different position. In 1923, another Shekel was issued with the same obverse but a different reverse — a rank of three lillies and the inscription Shekel — (5)683 and below 586s Shekel. The small medal is an imitation of the old Hebrew Shekel as it was used in Palestine, first as a coin

weight and later as a real coin during the last period of Jewish independence. In 1921, it was offered to the whole Jewish Community as a symbol of the new Eretz-Israel.

The description for each medal in the catalog indicates the collection in which the pieces are to be found. Most of the medals, Dr. Polak has in his own collection, but in his description of the Shekels he had to print; "Collection unknown." It is a pity that in 1958 Dr. Polak and I did not know each other as well as we do now, otherwise he could have seen my specimen of these medals. These were struck in silver, without a loop or ring. I consulted Dr. Polak on the subject and discovered that now, 10 years later, he still does not have a specimen of these Shekels in his collection. He wanted to buy more from me, but we agreed that I should ask the Curator of the Leo Kadman Collection in Tel Aviv if he had a specimen in his collection. And, if he did not, I would donate mine to the Museum in Tel Aviv.



photo: by Ed Janis

By courtesy of both the author and the publisher, I am able to describe and illustrate a few of the more important items listed in the catalog. All of these medals are in the collection of Dr. Arthur Polak.

* *Jewish Medals in the Netherlands*, Arthur Polak, M.D., Amsterdam. Published by Jacques Schulman, Amsterdam 1958, \$6.00 Postfree.

No. 1. ±1550: Gracia Mendes (Nassi).

Uniface. Bust of Gracia Mendes, facing left. Inscription in Hebrew characters: Gracia Nassi-A Ae XVIII (18 years). Designed by Pastorino. Bronze 66 mm. diam. Wooden replica 65 mm. diam. The original piece is in the Strauss-Rothschild Collection (Cluny Museum, Paris).



Uniface
(Reduced)

Gracia Mendes was the wife of Francisco Mendes of Lisbon, Portugal. With his brother Diego of Antwerp (Belgium), he ran the big Christian banking and trading company Mendes. Diego, who was a rich man, financed the stay of the two faced Duarte de Paz at the Papal Court in Rome as a "deputee" of the Marranos, the baptized Portuguese and Spanish Jews. De Paz played the role of Protector of the Neo-Christians till about 1536, as long as his wealthy co-religionists paid him more than his enemies did. The House of Mendes obtained the pepper monopoly which made the King of Portugal dependent upon it. After the death of her husband, Gracia Mendes, whose real name was Beatrice de Luna, traveled to Antwerp where she aided many poor baptized Jews. Later, she fled to Ferrara (Italy). There she re-adopted the Jewish faith and she became the protector of numerous baptized immigrants, who wanted to return to Jewry, and the Maecenas of Jewish writers. Apart from the above mentioned names, she is also known in Jewish history as Gracia Nassi.

No. 58.

1904: Eightieth birthday of Jozef Israels.

Obverse: Bust of the famous Dutch painter, facing left; inscription: Jozef Israels. Reverse: Descending Genius, holding a wreathed pallet in her left hand.

In her right arm branches of laurels, of which she drops a few. Inscription: To Jozef Israels, His Brothers in Art from Far and Near, January 27, 1824-1904. Designed by J. C. Wienecke. Silver and bronze, 90 mm. diam.

Jozef Israels, the smallest of Dutch great men, was born in Groningen. He was the son of a stockbroker and his father had destined him for his own business. However, in primary school he showed an aptitude for drawing and after his father had become a member of the Academy, he allowed his son to attend lessons in drawing there. Several famous artists were his teachers. In 1842, he came to Amsterdam and later he worked mainly in Schevingen, near the Hague. His seascapes and paintings of fishermen make a deep impression on those who see his paintings. The fabulous colors he used add an extra dimension to his particular style of painting. In my



Obverse



Reverse

opinion his painting of Saul and David, in the Amsterdam Municipal Museum, is his masterpiece. The way he depicts the sadness in King Saul's eyes is unequalled and as far as Biblical paintings are concerned this painting can compare with the more gener-

ally known Biblical scenes done by that Great Master of the 17th Century, Rembrandt. The psychological depth of this exceptionally beautiful work of art is so fascinating that many times I have watched it for more than an hour.

A very impressive ceremony in Israel's honor took place on January 27, 1904, when he celebrated his eightieth birthday. He was welcomed by a choir singing: "Hail you great son of the Old Nation." Thereafter the described medal was handed to him by the also famous painter, Mesdag, on behalf of the artists of the Netherlands and admirers of the whole world. He was informed that the Queen had awarded him the Order of the Dutch Lion, a very high decoration a citizen seldom receives. Also, very well known is his painting of a Jewish Wedding, of which two copies exist, one in Amsterdam and the other in the Museum in Tel Aviv. He died on August 12, 1911. A small sized (28mm) copy of this medal in bronze, is listed under number 65.

Nos. 77 A and B. 1931: Dr. Karl Landsteiner.



Obverse



Reverse

A. Obverse: Bust of Landsteiner, facing left. Inscription: Prof. Dr. Karl Landsteiner. **Reverse:** In center, a Pelican, feeding its young with its own blood, a legendary concept. Hence the Latin inscription around the bird: Sanguine Sanguinen Sanguine Sanguinen Sanguine. A liberal translation in English reads: Blood heals blood. Between the head and the right wing of the

bird is a Red Cross. Inscription in Dutch: Blood-transfusion Service of the Dutch Red Cross. Bronze, 50 mm. diam. Designed by J. J. van Goor.

B. Oblong plaque 100 x 70 mm. Uniface. Bronze. Same bust of Landsteiner. Above: Prof. Dr. Karl Landsteiner. Below bust: Awarded to by the Dutch Red Cross for the donating of blood 15 times. Below: the Pelican. Designed by J. J. van Goor. This medal is also in the collection of the writer.

The Austrian Professor Dr. Karl Landsteiner was the pioneer in the research on blood-types. He lived from 1868 to 1945. In 1900, still working in Vienna, he discovered the various blood-types. In 1931 the Dutch Red Cross decided to award the 500 mm round medal to those who had donated their blood 5 times and the plaque to those who had donated their blood 15 times.

No. 79. November 24, 1932, Baruch de Spinoza.

Obverse: Facing bust of Spinoza. **Reverse:** Surrounded by a snake biting its tail, is the house where he lived and died. (This house still



Obverse



Reverse

stands in the Hague.) In Roman numerals at the left of the house MDCXXXII (1632), at the right MDCLXVII (1667). In front of the house, a branch of a dune rose. Silver and bronze, 68 mm. diam. Collection of Dr. Arthur Polak.

Baruch (or Benedictus) de Spinoza, one of the greatest philosophers who ever lived, was born and raised in

Continued on page 31

A Glimpse Into The Future

By Nathan R. Goldman, Esq.

The AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION has many plans for the future for the purpose of bringing increased benefits to its members. The thought is uppermost in our mind that we must ever seek to improve its value to its members.

A.I.N.A. is now busily engaged in planning for our trip to Jerusalem, the site of our second annual forum. The plans are almost completed regarding date, price, itinerary and social and numismatic functions. All of you will be notified in good time as to these matters so that those of you who intend to go to Israel, will have plenty of time to make plans. The trip will be open to members and friends.

Secondly, A.I.N.A. is happy to announce that members of A.I.N.A. will have top priority in obtaining the new specimen sets of Israel for 1969. Our members will be the first to obtain such sets. They may be ordered in



quantities not exceeding ten. Our members, who do not have the 1968 specimen sets may order up to 5. This priority is accorded our members because of membership in A.I.N.A.

A.I.N.A. is extremely happy to advise you that Israel coin clubs are being organized, in co-operation with the office of the Asst. Trade Commissioner of Israel in New York, throughout the United States and Canada at a very rapid rate. On October 12th, 1968, the Professional Numismatic Guild is having its convention in Chicago and a feature of that convention will be an "Israel Night" at which time the Israel Numismatic Club of Chicago will come into existence.

October 20th, 1968, will see the birth of the Israel Numismatic Club of Quebec with quarters in Montreal. Your president will be present on both occasions.

Continued on page 31

A Letter to the Editor from Haifa

Haifa, 24th July, 1968

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to Mrs. Haffner on her interesting article: "The History of Modern Israel's First Coin, Banknote & Medal," which appeared in your No. 1 issue.

I should like however, to add that the term "Legal tender for payment of any amount" came as an afterthought when there were some doubts whether foreigners in Israel at the time who had deposits at the Banks will not insist on having "Palestine Pounds", hence this term was added on future Banknotes.

In this connection, I would like to bring to the readers' attention the origin of this term which emanated in England during the 18th century for the first time. In the second half of the 19th century rumours were spread in England that the Bank of England was bankrupt.

In similar cases depositors usually queue on such Banks to draw their deposits. Naturally, no Bank holds all deposited amounts in cash for obvious reasons. At that moment, the Director paused for a moment and found a device: he ordered his Cashiers to pay all amounts in sixpences! Every one can imagine the wrath and anger of the public, but they could not (legally) help the position. Counting (twice) one hundred Sterling Pounds in sixpences, ought to last at least half an hour, since the Cashier must count it at least once and then the client. Within the following three/four days these rumours were completely dispelled, and things returned to normal.

In consequence of this incident, the House of Commons debated the whole affair and as a result it was decided that Banknotes of Half a Pound and up are "Legal Tender for Payment of Any Amount."

Sincerely,
AARON H. TALIL

Trends in Paper Money

by Sylvia Haffner



Palestine Currency Board Notes 1927-1947 Trends

The Palestine Currency Board Notes, issued by a Committee appointed in 1926 by the British Secretary of State, were printed by Thomas de la Rue & Co., Ltd., London. During correspondence with Mr. La Rue it became apparent that records were not kept as to the date of issue for each denomination. A compilation for existing notes has been a long and tedious job for not too many of the higher denominations are offered for sale. There are no printing figures to help us to arrive

at a relative rarity scale. The trends are based purely on availability.

The majority of these banknotes were destroyed by the British when they left Palestine on May 15, 1948. Those notes held by the Provisional Government of Israel were cut in half for delivery to London to be exchanged for Sterling, thus eliminating another source for the collector.

The 100 Pound note is the rarest banknote of Israel and is never offered for sale. In February of 1968, in Israel, not one such note could be located for viewing, although two collectors admitted to owning one at one time.

PALESTINE CURRENCY BOARD NOTES 1927-1947

GAT. NO.	DENOMINATION	DATE	CIRC.	XF	CRISP
PCB-1	500 Mils	Sept. 1, 1927	35.00	60.00	85.00
		Sept. 30, 1929	30.00	55.00	75.00
		April 20, 1939	20.00	45.00	65.00
		August 15, 1945	25.00	50.00	70.00
PCB-2	1 Palestine Pound	Sept. 1, 1927	25.00	40.00	60.00
		Sept. 30, 1929	20.00	30.00	50.00
		April 20, 1939	15.00	25.00	45.00
		January 1, 1944	22.50	35.00	55.00
PCB-3	5 Palestine Pounds	Sept. 1, 1927	60.00	100.00	165.00
		Sept. 30, 1929	50.00	85.00	150.00
		April 20, 1939	45.00	75.00	140.00
		January 1, 1944	40.00	65.00	135.00
PCB-4	10 Palestine Pounds	Sept. 1, 1927	175.00	250.00	325.00
		Sept. 30, 1929	125.00	200.00	260.00
		Sept. 7, 1939	115.00	185.00	245.00
		January 1, 1944	150.00	225.00	285.00
PCB-5	50 Palestine Pounds	Sept. 1, 1927	495.00	Rare	Rare
		Sept. 30, 1929	475.00	650.00	Rare
		Sept. 7, 1939	495.00	Rare	Rare
PCB-6	100 Palestine Pounds	Sept. 1, 1927	Rare	—	—
		Sept. 30, 1929	Rare	—	—
		Sept. 10, 1942	Rare	—	—

Banknotes of Israel—1948-1960 Trends

Collecting the banknotes of Israel is a challenge to any collector. As the issues came forth the old issues were retired immediately. The only bank-

notes in circulation today are the 4th Issue, Bank of Israel 1958-1960. The 1/2 Lira-Pound has been completely retired and the 1/2 Lira-Pound-coin has taken its place. The 1 Lira-Pound is

also scheduled to be retired as quickly as possible.

The Fractional Note issues from 1948 to 1953 are an interesting series to collect for most of the notes were issued with many variances in the color as well as the change in signatures. All the early issues are exceedingly scarce in crisp condition.

The 50 Lirot-Pound notes of all se-

ries are scarce in crisp condition, but the 1948 issue of the Anglo-Palestine Bank, Ltd. is rare. In 1948 a 50 lirot-pound was the equivalent of two months salary for the working man and when they were recalled no one was in a position to put one away. In February of 1968, in Israel, one such note was offered for sale in fine condition for \$850.

ISRAEL'S BANKNOTES 1948-1960

FRACTIONAL NOTES

CAT. NO.	DENOMINATION	DATE	PRINTING	SIGNATURE	COLOR	CIRC.	EF	CRISP
N-1	50 Mils	1948-50	500,000	A. Kaplan	Red	60.00	80.00	140.00
N-2	100 Mils	1948-50	1,643,000	A. Kaplan	Green	50.00	70.00	130.00
N-3a	50 Pruta	1952-54	33,239,000	Zagaggi-Kaplan	Blue-varied	10.00	20.00	35.00
N-3b	50 Pruta	1952-54	includ. above	Zagaggi-Kaplan	Red-Black	15.00	35.00	50.00
N-3bb	50 Pruta	1952-54	includ. above	Zagaggi-Kaplan	Red-red	10.00	20.00	35.00
N-3c	50 Pruta	1952-54	includ. above	Zagaggi-Eshkol	Red-varied	10.00	15.00	25.00
N-3d	50 Pruta	1952-54	includ. above	Neeman-Eshkol	Red-varied	.75	1.00	2.00
N-4a	100 Pruta	1952-54	40,481,000	Zagaggi-Kaplan	Green-green	10.00	30.00	45.00
N-4aa	100 Pruta	1952-54	includ. above	Zagaggi-Kaplan	Green-black	10.00	25.00	35.00
N-4b	100 Pruta	1952-54	includ. above	Zagaggi-Eshkol	Blue-varied	10.00	15.00	25.00
N-4c	100 Pruta	1952-54	includ. above	Neeman-Eshkol	Blue-varied	.75	1.00	2.00
N-4d	100 Pruta	1952-54	includ. above	(Neeman up-side-down)	Blue-varied	40.00	100.00	Rare
N-5a	250 Pruta	1953-60	12,582,500	Neeman-Eshkol	Green-varied	.75	1.00	2.50
N-5b	250 Pruta	1953-60	includ. above	Neeman-Eshkol	Green-varied	.75	1.00	2.50
N-5c	250 Pruta	1953-60	includ. above	Neeman-Eshkol	Green-varied	.75	1.00	2.50

(Series A-B-C different shades of green and types of papers. Series 5c is found with/and without a faint gold Menora to the left of the Arabic inscription "State of Israel" at the top of the note.)

ANGLO PALESTINE BANK, LTD. 1ST ISSUE 1948-1953

CAT. NO.	DENOMINATION	DATE	SERIAL NO.	CIRC.	EF.	CRISP
N-6	500 Mils	1948	Red	5.00	15.00	Rare
N-7	1 Lira-Pound	1948	Red	3.00	5.00	10.00
N-8	5 Lirot-Pounds	1948	Black	10.00	15.00	35.00
N-9	10 Lirot-Pounds	1948	Black	17.50	25.00	45.00
N-10	50 Lirot-Pounds	1948	Red	Rare	Rare	Rare

BANK LEUMI LE-ISRAEL B.M. 2ND ISSUE 1952-1955

N-11	500 Pruta	1952	Red	6.00	10.00	17.00
N-12	1 Lira-Pound	1952	Blue	3.00	4.50	6.00
N-13	5 Lirot-Pounds	1952	Blue	6.00	10.00	15.00
N-14	10 Lirot-Pounds	1952	Red	15.00	25.00	35.00
N-15	50 Lirot-Pounds	1952	Red	45.00	65.00	150.00

Continued on next page

Book Review

by Wilma Thompson

"Jewish Coins of the Second Temple Period"
by Ya'akov Meshorer/Published by Am Has-
sefer, Tel-Aviv, 1967/Translated by I. H. Levine.

Numismatists and collectors of the English speaking countries owe a debt to I. H. Levine for translating from Hebrew "Jewish Coins of the Second Temple Period," by Ya'akov Meshorer. The author was the Curator of the Archaeological Museums in Israel and

Professor Wilma Thompson is the advertising manager of The Shekel. She is a staff member of the physics department of Middlesex County College, Edison, N. J. She received her B.S. in Physics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, an M.S. in Physics at N.Y.U., and graduate studies at the Eidgenossische Technische Hochschule, Zurich. Before that Prof. Thompson was associated with Convair Astronautics as Sr. Engineer and North American Aviation as Design Specialist. Wilma finds Israeli Numismatics a refreshing relaxation.



more recently the Director of Antiquities of the West Bank. His book which abounds with scholarly effort, is intended as a general work on Jewish numismatics and under no circumstances is it intended as a complete corpus.

The book includes recent archaeological material uncovered in the past two decades, thereby bringing numismatic knowledge of Jewish coins of the second temple period up to date.

The first section gives a brief resumé of the historical background of the Jews in their ancient land commencing with the return from the Babylonian captivity 538 B.C.E., and terminating with the Bar Kochba Revolt 132-135 C.E.

Continued on next page

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BANK OF ISRAEL 3RD ISSUE 1955-1958

CAT. NO.	DENOMINATION	DATE	SERIAL NO.	CIRC.	EF.	CRISP
N-16	500 Pruta	1955	Black	2.50	3.50	5.00
N-17	1 Lira-Pound	1955	Black	2.00	3.00	4.50
N-18	5 Lirot-Pounds	1955	Black	5.00	7.50	15.00
N-19	10 Lirot-Pounds	1955	Black	8.00	12.50	17.50
N-19a	10 Lirot-Pounds	1955	Red	7.50	10.00	15.00
N-20	50 Lirot-Pounds	1955	Black	40.00	60.00	75.00
N-20a	50 Lirot-Pounds	1955	Red	35.00	50.00	65.00

BANK OF ISRAEL 4TH ISSUE 1958-1960

CAT. NO.	DENOMINATION	DATE	SERIAL NO.	CIRC.	EF.	CRISP
N-21	1/2 Lira-Pound	1958	Black	1.00	2.00	3.50
N-22	1 Lira-Pound	1958	Black	2.00	3.50	6.00
N-22a	1 Lira-Pound	1958	Red	1.50	2.50	4.50
N-22b	1 Lira-Pound	1958-MC	Gold-Brown	.75	1.25	1.75
N-23	5 Lirot-Pounds	1958	Black	2.00	2.75	3.50
N-24	10 Lirot-Pounds	1958	Black	3.50	4.25	6.50
N-24a	10 Lirot-Pounds	1958-MC	Blue	3.00	3.75	5.75
N-24b	10 Lirot-Pounds	1958-MC	Red	3.00	3.75	5.75
N-25	50 Lirot-Pounds	1960	Black	18.00	20.00	35.00
N-25a	50 Lirot-Pounds	1960	Red	18.00	20.00	35.00
N-25b	50 Lirot-Pounds	1960-MC	Blue	16.00	18.50	22.50
N-25c	50 Lirot-Pounds	1960-MC	Green	17.00	20.00	25.00

(MC = Morse Code security strips added to the notes.)

Editor's Note: Above material is solely the opinion of the author.

Continued from previous page

The fruit of the author's researches are evidenced in ensuing chapters. His approach is one of turning directly to the coins themselves examining their designs, shapes and inscriptions in relationship to their historical setting. His resulting conclusions are novel and often constitute an entirely new viewpoint. However, he clearly states his assumptions, and with crystal clear logic develops a thesis from which the final conclusion flows with precision.

An example of his technique appears in the second chapter. The genealogical table of the Hasmonean kings has been constructed by synthesis of historical but often singularly isolated facts. He shows that his structure holds together in the light of well known Jewish historical tradition. With this table as a base he then proceeds to build his case; that is, that the first coinage of the Hasmoneans, was that of Alexander Yannai. The coins of the later Hasmoneans are discussed and amply illustrated by 4 pages of plates.

The political upheaval which placed the line of Herod on the throne of Judaea is clearly evidenced by the marked change on the ensuing coinage. The Herodians, puppets of Rome, clearly departed from the Jewish coinage of the Hasmoneans. The style of the coins takes on the marked influence of the Romans. The specifically Jewish symbols disappear, being replaced by foreign ones. The inscriptions are in Greek only. Again the coins of this period are discussed, attributed, and amply illustrated.

The coins of the First Revolt, and the Bar Kochba War along with those of the Roman Procurators and the Judaea Capta series are presented in the author's refreshing style. The thirty-two sets of plates are beautifully presented.

It seems inevitable that sooner or later many collectors of the coins of

modern Israel will find themselves irrevocably drawn into the field of ancient Jewish coinage, if for no other reason than the fact that the last coinage and the present coinage are separated by 1800 years of time, but the truly great ideas have survived. The coins of Israel demonstrate this with clarity, and the numismatic literature of Meshorer is one of the finest guides possible.

BOOKS

Just Received From Israel

The following books were received by A.I.N.A. recently. Watch future editions of *The Shekel* for Book Reviews. We will also endeavor to reprint articles of interest to the readers of *The Shekel*.

1. "The Function and Pattern of the Jewish Coins and the City Coins of Palestine and Phoenicia" by Arie Kindler and Ernst Werner Klimowsky. Publication of the Israel Numismatic Society, 1968. Jerusalem, Israel. (79 pp)

2. "Essays in Jewish Numismatics" by Josef Meyshan, M.D., F.R.S.M., F.R.N.S., Foreword by Michael Aviyonah, Professor of Archeology, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Publication of the Israel Numismatic Society, 1968. Jerusalem, Israel. (165 pp)
Ed.

A REQUEST

TO OUR READERS:

We would appreciate your notifying us of a change of address. Please address correspondence to:

A I N A

P. O. Box 3194

Church Street Station

New York, N. Y. 10008

Judaeen Jottings

by Mel Wacks

EW††††† †~‡W††~
= AELIA CAPITOLINA...



The remains of the Jewish Temple (the "Wailing Wall") form a great religious and emotional tie with the ancient history of Israel and its people. Its free access was one of the fruits of victory in last year's Six Day War. The significance of this feat was such that it was commemorated on the 1967 Victory Coin. Over 1800 years ago it was the sanctity of this Temple site that was one of the principal causes of the Second Jewish Revolt.

The Jews had remained in Judaea following the desolation of the First Revolt and always retained the hope of rebuilding the Temple. This dream was reinforced when it was learned that the Roman Emperor Hadrian was to visit Judaea on his tour of all the far reaches of his empire — from Britain to Egypt. A large number of engineers and surveyors accompanied Hadrian; they were to assay the situations and recommend the construction required to restore these regions — an ancient "urban renewal program".

However, Hadrian's plan for the restoration of Jerusalem was to rebuild it as an Hellenistic city; a temple dedicated to Jupiter Capitolinus was to be built on the site of the ruined Jewish Temple. Thus were shattered the dreams and expectations of the Jewish People.

In addition to this great disappointment, the Emperor issued an edict forbidding circumcision for all those under another Roman rule. The groundwork for another rebellion had been laid!

Evidence indicates that Hadrian rededicated Jerusalem as a Roman colony during this visit in 130 CE. The city was renamed Colonia Aelia Capitolina; Aelia being Hadrian's family name and Capitolinus the surname of the god Jupiter.

Dio Cassius (b. 155 CE), a Roman senator, governor and consul, who no doubt had access to official documents of Hadrian's administration wrote, "When Hadrian founded at Jerusalem a city of his own which he called Aelia Capitolina, in place of the one destroyed, and erected a temple of Jupiter on the site of the sanctuary of their God, a great and long-continued war broke out. For the Jews regarded it as a horrible outrage that foreigners should settle in their city and that temples for strange gods should be built in it."

Following the dedication of Aelia and the initiation of construction of the new temple, Hadrian continued on his travels — visiting Egypt and Syria. The revolt finally erupted when he left the Middle East area and returned to Rome in 132 CE.

One of the acts of the rebellion was the attempt to rebuild the Jewish Temple. The Chronicon Paschale, written in the Seventh Century, even speaks of a destruction by Hadrian of the temple that had actually been built!

Meshorer, in his "Jewish Coins of the Second Temple Period", presents interesting evidence for the establishment of Aelia Capitolina and the striking of coins there before the revolt.

* (Yerushalayim) - Jerusalem.

He tells of a hoard "found in the northern region of the Judaeian desert . . . which contained some thirty-five Roman denarii of Trajan and of Hadrian (struck not later than 130 CE), about five denarii of Bar Kochba, as well as one bronze coin . . . that was none other than an Aelia Capitolina coin of Hadrian."



Obv. Bust of Emperor Hadrian, wearing crown of laurel.

Rev. Emperor ploughing with bull and cow.

Since the money (particularly the bronze) of the Jewish revolutionaries would not have retained any value to the victorious Romans, it would seem that this hoard must have been buried before 135 CE, during the war.

If coins of Aelia were initially struck about 130 CE, what of the founders type in particular?

The Mishnah states that after the fall of Bethar on the ninth of Ab, the city of Jerusalem was ploughed up.⁽¹⁾ Similarly, Eusebius (b. 264 CE in Palestine) described the establishment of the colony of Aelia as a consequence of the war. And Kadman wrote, "With the liquidation of Jewish resistance, the establishment of the Roman colony on the site of Jerusalem started again. The formal act of foundation — a solemn ploughing to mark the boundaries of the colony — was commemorated by a coin . . ."⁽²⁾

However it is possible that this event was actually a refounding, as was later commemorated in the coins of Marcus Aurelius, Macrinus, Elaga-

balus and Hostilianus; and therefore the founder type coin of Hadrian might have been struck at the time of his original dedication of Aelia in 130 CE. If this was the case, these coins could have themselves further infuriated the Jewish population.

The obverse of the first "founders type" contains a bust of the Emperor Hadrian facing right; he is wearing a crown of laurel and a draped toga. The inscription reads "IMP CAES TRAIANO HADRIANO".

This legend is "a sign of loyalty to the Empire, as expressed in the person of its ruler."⁽³⁾ The right of coinage was held by the colony's authorities rather than the government in Rome.

The reverse features the founder, Hadrian, with his head veiled in a toga, ploughing with a bull and cow to the right; a vexillum (military standard) is behind them.⁽⁴⁾ The inscription is "COL AEL KAPIT COND".

This coin is very scarce, only seventeen specimens were known to Kadman.

Coins were issued in the name of Aelia Capitolina until the middle of the third century. The temples of Jupiter, Astarte and others stood until 336 CE when Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great, visited the city and Christianity was declared the official religion of the Roman Empire. The name of the colony then reverted back to that which it had had since before the time of Abraham — Jerusalem.

Recently we saw a modern version of the ploughing ceremony when Israeli bulldozers flattened the Mandelbaum Gate and other obstacles between the two sectors of a reunited Jerusalem.

(1) Ta'anit IV, 6.

(2) L. Kadman, "Corpus Nummorum Palaestiniensium Vol. I — The Coins of Aelia Capitolina", The Universitas — Publishers, Jerusalem 1956.

(3) H. Mattingly, "Roman Coins, From the Earliest Times to Fall of the Western Empire", Methuen, London 1960.

(4) The founding ceremony was originally performed by a priest and later, in the imperial age, in the name of the emperor.



The Story Of Minting

by Stanley Lechner

Before the Seventh Century B.C.E. any small object that was scarce or in short supply in a given civilization was used as a medium of exchange. As civilization advanced it became a necessity to have a medium of guaranteed value for use in trading. Precious metals became that medium. As use of gold and silver increased it had to be reweighed with each transaction. About the Seventh Century B.C.E. the king of Lydia is said to have used a simple nail punch in the lumps of precious metal. This was to guarantee their value. More uniform methods of exchange were needed. From this crude beginning emanated a period of simple designs on precious metals.

Ancient craftsmen learned to use more substantial tools and they began producing coins with figures of animals and humans. As the coins began assuming a more uniform appearance the concept of front and back (Obverse and Reverse) came into being. It is believed that in the fourth or fifth century B.C.E. hubs or cameo dies were first used in Greece. Prior to this time, punches were used and a sledge hammer was used to pound the impression into the surface of the metal. In using dies it was found that under the repeated blows of the hammer the working die did not last very long, and a new set had to be made frequently. Someone then found that by cutting a die so that the design appeared in relief (raised) the die would last longer and give a more even appearance. The metal blank had to be heated so as to soften the metal to properly receive

the die. However, this method did not produce a finished coin and the remainder had to be trimmed by hand.

During the Medieval period the methods of fashioning the dies became more of an art and the material of which the dies were made greatly improved. It is interesting to note that instead of casting the coin blanks as in the earlier periods, (See article in Vol. 1, Number 2 of the Shekel titled "The mint of King Herod The Great?") the Medieval craftsman hammered metal into thin sheets and used shears to cut out the coin blanks. Around the beginning of the fourteenth century the metal was cast in small rods, from which the coin blanks were cut and shaped. Minting, as we know it today, began around 1500 with the use of machines that rolled thin sheets of metal, machines that punched out the coin blanks and a machine known as a screw press, like the kind used in early printing. This press had the obverse and reverse dies mounted in it. A coin blank was placed on the die at the bottom of the press, and the press was screwed down so that the top die would squeeze the impression into the metal rather than pound it in. This method made the dies last longer and give a fairly uniform size to the coin. Even with the advent of this press, the problem of a truly finished coin still remained. The drawback being that this press still depended on manpower for its operation. It was not until the 1830's when the steam press was first used in the United States that the present day art of minting was born.

If we were to take a trip through a mint today we would more or less observe the following procedures. First, a detailed set of drawings for a new coin is made. After initial ap-

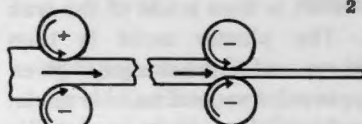
Continued on page 20

MR. STANLEY LECHNER is employed by the New York State Department of Transportation as a civil engineer. He is a graduate of City College of New York. Mr. Lechner is a member of A.I.N.A. and the treasurer of the I.N.S. of New York.

MINTING: FROM METAL TO COINS

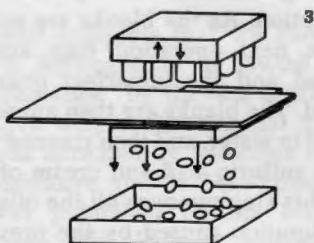


Casting
(90% Silver)
(10% Copper)



Rolled

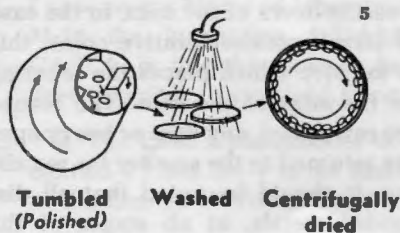
Rolled again
(18-22 times)



Blanks punched out of strip



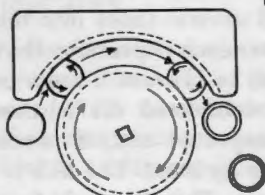
Annealed (softened)
in gas flame



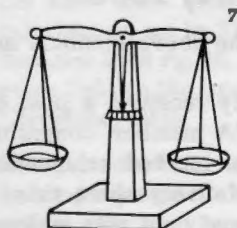
Tumbled
(Polished)

Washed

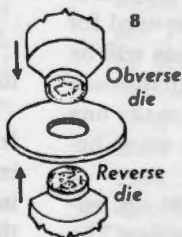
Centrifugally
dried



Raised edge formed



Coins weighed



Reeded (milled)
and stamped



Final coins counted
and bagged

Continued from page 18

proval the design is sculptured in modeling wax approximately eight times the actual size of the coin. A plaster mold is then made of the wax model. The plaster mold is then touched up, and if the design is given final approval, a second mold is made. This mold is then given a metallic shell, and then the plaster is removed and replaced with lead to strengthen the shell. The shell is then placed on a reducing machine. This machine is like a pantograph used in drawing so as to reproduce designs from one surface to another at a different scale. However, this machine has a steel cutting edge instead of a pencil at the working end. This steel edge cuts the design on the hub which rotates much like a metal lathe. The completed hub is then heated and then cooled so as to harden it. A die blank is then heated and allowed to slowly cool so as to anneal its surface. The hub is then impressed several times into this die blank. After each impression the die is reannealed to prevent it from breaking. The completed die is then removed, inspected and, if necessary, cleaned up by hand. The hub is then stored away. This die made from the hub is then hardened and used as a master die to make a working hub. From this working hub approximately two to three hundred dies are made. Some two-thirds of these are used for proofing. (This special process will be discussed in a later article.) In the case of small coins each die can make one to one and one half million coins before it must be discarded.

Stamping machines are set up, adjusted and readied for production. The materials then obtained from government refineries are metals of correct alloy content made into ingots, and are transported to the various mints. At the mint the ingots are annealed and then passed through a series of

rollers that press the metal into long thin sheets of the thickness required for the type of coin to be minted. Again these sheets are reannealed and placed in the blanking machine. This machine punches out many coin blanks with one stroke. The first few blanks are weighed and if they are too light or too heavy the metal sheets are sent back to the rolling or smelting section for corrective action. Once all the production bugs are corrected the blanking machines are placed into production. As the blanks are moved to the next operation they are inspected and the imperfect ones removed. The blanks are then annealed, cooled in water, and then cleaned with dilute sulfuric acid and cream of tartar. This step removes all the oils and discoloration caused by the previous operations. The cleaned coin blanks then go through an edge rolling or milling machine. This operation raises the edge of the coin so as to prevent early wearing down of the coin. In the case of Israeli commemorative coins, this is the step which places the lettering on the edge of the coin. The blanks are reweighed, any light or heavy ones are returned to the smelter for remelting. It should be noted that all discarded metals, at all stages of the

Continued on page 25

3194/10008

What do the above numbers mean to you?

We recently received a post card from an AINA member, congratulating us on our marked achievements in such a relatively short time. Although the post card was addressed P.O.B. 3194, 10008 it reached us. 10008 is our Zip Code No. (AINA and New York, N.Y. were absent). Our esteemed member, who obviously was in a haste, nevertheless found enough time to congratulate us. ED.

The ALPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q.—Enjoyed Mel Wacks article on a "Short Bibliography of Ancient Jewish Numismatics" (Summer '68). Is there a more complete listing of books and articles on Jewish Numismatics? H. C., Springfield, Mass.

A.—Most complete that we know is "A Bibliography of Jewish Numismatics" by the late Professor L. A. Mayer. The original listing was enriched by additions by Y. Meshorer and M. Avi-Yonah. It was published by the Magnes Press, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem in 1966 as a project of the Hadassah Apprentice School of Printing.

Q.—I note on my Medal of Liberation M-21 the inscription IVDAEA CAPTA. Is this the same as Judaea Capta? E. L., Hartford, Conn.

A.—Yes. The Latin alphabet does not contain a J and the V is the same as the English U. Vnderstand?

Q.—Enclosed is copy of Token & Medal Society (TAMS) Sept. 1968 Journal containing an article on the same item that you request information on in THE SHEKEL Summer 1968 Pg. 36. Does it shed some light on the issuance? M. K., Cleveland, Ohio.

A.—Was jarred when I saw the photo accompanying Arlie R. Slabaugh's article "A Holyland Souvenir" because it was EXACTLY like ours. This is only a coincidence as it employs the use of a "ring light" strobe developed for dental and medical photography. Look at Page 36 Summer issue of THE

SHEKEL and note how each letter is outlined with a complete lack of shadows. Compare this with the photo on the top of the page which uses more conventional lighting. Enough on photography now. (Look forward to Ed Janis' article "The Photography Of Coins" in the Winter '68 issue of THE SHEKEL—Ed.) As you state in your letter, Mr. Slabaugh, "is somewhat in the dark concerning this issue". He states that he "heard" that this token was made to supply a demand for souvenirs for tourists and pilgrims as a relic of their trip. He too states that the explanation is logical but requests readers to send in the "true" story.

Q.—Do the Israelis have proof sets, or mint sets like the U.S.? As a member of A.I.N.A. will I be notified when new issues become available? M. L., Massapequa Pk., N. Y.

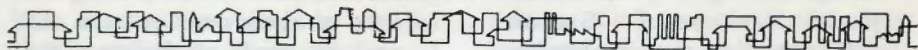
A.—The State of Israel issues specimen sets which contain six current coins of the Agora series. They are housed in attractive, informative plastic wrapped holders. The obverse and reverse may be seen without the detrimental handling of the individual coins. They have been issued each year since 1963 with the exception of 1964. A.I.N.A. members received an order blank early in September for the 1969 sets.

Food For Thought Dept.—Ancient Jewish Coins featuring the Palm Tree as a symbol appear on issues of Herod Antipas (obv.) (4 BC-39 A.D.—Reif. 50;

Continued on next page

CLUB SECRETARIES What your Club does is news, and you are urged to share it with readers of the Journal. Please remember however that reports must be concise, telling (1) When it happened, (2) Where it happened, (3) What happened, and (4) Who it happened to. In addition to reports, Club Bulletins are appreciated as they often provide additional news items. Forward all material to the Editor. The deadline is the first of the month preceding publication.

Club News



FROM SACRAMENTO

Sacramento Israel Numismatic Society, meets the fourth Thursday of each month, at a member's home. No time given. *Mel Wacks, Vice President*



Dr. Daniel K. Oxman presents plaque to Dr. Bernard Kaufman, Sr. on his election as President of the American-Israel Numismatic Association of Northern California in the presence of Gideon Saguy, Consul General of Israel (on the far left), and Mel Wacks, Numismatic Consultant of the Museum at the gala opening of the Israel Coin and Medal Exhibit.

FROM SAN FRANCISCO

*San Francisco Bay Area
Israel Numismatic Society*

Meets the second Sunday of each month, 1:30 P.M. at the Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum, 2911 Russell Street, Berkeley, California 94705.

The San Francisco Bay Area Israel Numismatic Society met Sunday July 28th, in the library of the Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum. Attendance was good at our third meeting and four new members were welcomed.

Mel Wacks, the Vice President, presided and delivered an illustrated talk on ancient and modern Israeli coins.

Mel Wacks, Vice President

Continued from previous page

Agrippa II (Rx) (50-100 A.D.)—Reif. 102; Jewish War (66-70 A.D.)—Reif. 156; Bar-Kochba bronzes (132-135 A.D.)—Reif. 189, 193-196, 200, 203, 204, 206, 207. Why a seven branched palm tree? Wirgin and Mandel state that the palm tree is "a symbol of life and the phallus in the ancient East." Romanoff states that "the palm, a fruit-bearing tree growing near water had already in biblical times been synonymous with height and abundance—this tree became a symbol of Judea where palm trees grow—it also represented Judea the productive, Judea the blessed—the palm tree has thus a double meaning, the symbol of abundance and the sym-

bol of Judea." In "The Great Mother," E. Neumann suggests that the symbol of the palm tree was borrowed from the Egyptian date-palm goddess Hathor—The Lady of The Plants. The menorah appears on only one coin (plus one variety) by one ruler—Mattityah Antigonus (40-37 B.C.). Rabbinical prohibition of the representation of the seven-branched menorah (candlestick) was effective as a dissuading force prior to the end of the Second Revolt (135 A.D.) I SUBMIT, THAT THE SEVEN BRANCHED PALM TREE WAS USED AS AN ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTION OF THE SEVEN BRANCHED MENORAH.—E. J.



Viewing the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation display at the American Numismatic Association Annual Convention in August, in San Diego, California are: (Right to left), Mr. Russel Rulau; Mr. Richard S. Yeoman; Mrs. Sylvia Haffner; Mr. J. Milo; Mr. Paul Vincze; Mr. Jacob Levy; Mr. Morris Bram and Professor Yearl Schwartz (partly cut off).

FROM SAN DIEGO

Israel Numismatic Society of San Diego Formed

San Diego, California — An Israel Nite educational numismatic forum for an overflow audience of over 350 guests was held during the American Numismatic Association Annual Convention in San Diego, California, on Wednesday, August 21, 1968. Formation of the Israel Numismatic Society of San Diego was announced by Mr. Morris Bram, President of the American-Israel Numismatic Association and Chairman of the forum. The program was arranged by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation.

Distinguished guests and speakers included Mr. Russel Rulau, editor, *World Coins*; Mr. Richard S. Yeoman, editor, *Whitman's Numismatic Journal*; Sylvia Haffner, Israel numismatic authority; and Jacob Levy, representing the Consul General of Israel. Also among those bringing greetings were Paul Vincze, one of the world's foremost medalists and Professor Yearl E. Schwartz, representing the Jewish Community Council and the newly formed Israel Numismatic Society of San Diego. In addition to Professor Schwartz, the San Diego Society is headed by Mr. Morris Kraus,

President, Sylvia Haffner, Vice-President and Mr. Jack Brisker, Vice-President.

A recent travelog on Israel and the prize-winning film on the historic origins of the coins of Israel were also featured during the evening.

FROM NEW YORK

Israel Numismatic Society of New York

Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, at the Sheraton-McAlpin Hotel, 34th St. & Broadway, New York City, at 7:00 P.M.

The Israel Numismatic Society of New York now has over 80 members and our increase in membership can be attributed to the general excellence of our meetings presided over by our President Morris Bram.

We have many new ideas for further increasing the interest of our members and we are about to engage in the following:

1. We are about to institute a question and answer period during which answers will be given to numismatic problems of the members. If an answer cannot be given immediately, the question will be researched and the answer given at the next succeeding meeting.

2. A portion of each meeting will be devoted to a talk on the background of the various state medals of Israel so that the medals will be more meaningful. The background of coins will also be so considered.

3. A lecture series will be instituted beginning in January, 1969 to inform the members about some phase of history which was the background for the minting of Israel coins. These lectures will be given by authorities in the club and by outside speakers.

4. The club will meet several times during the year for informal dinners so that the members can become better acquainted with each other. These dinners are held during the regular meeting night and they start at 6 o'clock, so that there will be plenty of time for relaxation before the start of the meeting at 8 o'clock. The purpose of the dinners to make each meeting a meeting of old friends.

In accordance with this last idea, we did have a dinner on September 10th, 1968, starting at 6 P.M. It was a sparkling affair, sparkling in wit and story and the ensuing meeting was distinguished by the congenial glow of the members and it seems that a dinner is always followed by an interesting and enjoyable meeting. We heartily recommend this idea to other clubs.

Nathan Goldman, Esq.
Vice President, I. N. S. of N. Y.

FROM LOS ANGELES

Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles

Meets the last Sunday of each month, 2:00 P.M. at the State Community Hall, 1505 West Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, California.

Mrs. Sylvia Haffner, author of the text book "The History of Modern Israel's Money", lecturer, world traveler and exhibit chairman for the August A.N.A. convention in San Diego, was the key speaker of the day at the recent Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles.

Since the first of the year 18 new members have joined the ranks of the Israel coin club including Mrs. Maurice Gould and Mr. Manny Haffner, both well known as spouses of outstanding numismatists.

William Wisslead who has held many offices in numismatic clubs throughout California and is the former editor of the Numismatic Association of Southern California, attended the meeting and spoke. Bob Berman, program chairman has arranged for educational programs to be presented every second month in order to stimulate interest for the beginner as well as the advanced collector.

The general public is cordially invited to all meetings.

Leonard J. Sterling
Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles



At the first A.I.N.A. Forum held at the Sheraton-Atlantic Hotel, the following members were awarded plaques for their excellent exhibitions. Top row, left to right: Frank Picaro, Stanley Lechner, Charles Morris, Jack Minskoff, Sol Handel, Sam Shatz. Bottom row, left to right: Nat Goldman, Nat Sobel, Morris Bram, Mike Granis and Ben Spencer.

Whether you can take it with you isn't so much of a problem as whether you can hold onto it until you go. — Newsletter, *Liberty Coin Club of Corpus Christi* (ANA C 45363), Texas.



AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 708
CHURCH STREET STATION
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10008

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WILLIAM M. LUTCHESKY

July 31st, 1968

Dear Member,

You are cordially invited to attend an "Israel Nite" which will be held during the American Numismatic Association's 77th Annual Convention in San Diego, on Thursday, August 22 at 9:30 p.m. at the El Cortez Hotel.

The program will highlight the formation of the Israel Numismatic Society of San Diego, a new affiliate of the American Israel Numismatic Association.

Guests of honor will include the Honorable Michael David, General Governor of Israel, and Mr. Joseph Nite, the Assistant Trade Commissioner of Israel.

The prize-winning Israel numismatic exhibit will be on display at the convention. It includes a unique collection of 30 display medals, designed in Jerusalem by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation.

A showing of a stimulating film on the derivation of Israel numismatic themes will be featured on this occasion.

I do hope to see you at the "Israel Nite" in San Diego.

Sincerely,

Harvey Rosen
Harvey Rosen, President

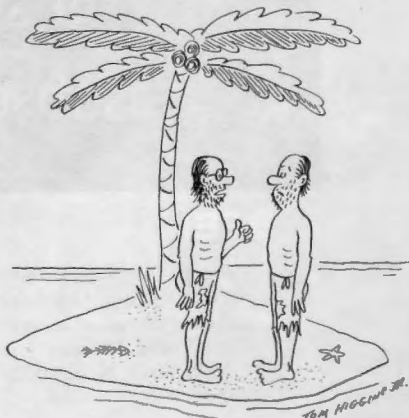
"COIN"

What is the origin of the word "coin"? It comes from the Roman word "cuneus", a wedge-shaped die which was used by the Romans to impress the desired design into their pieces of metal money. "Cuneus" passed into old French, where it became "coign" and then "coin". At first, "coin" still referred to the die used to make the impression in money, but eventually it came to denote the impression itself, and, finally the piece of money in which the impression was made.

DEAR MEMBER:

Interested in writing, critical book reviews, gripping yarns or personal adventure? Then share your experiences with the readers of "The Shekel".

Write the editor of this publication. Let us establish communication lines, increase the understanding and exchange views about numismatics. By so doing we will all benefit.



"It's a deal then—any old coins that we find go to my coin collection, and any shells found are for your shell collection."

This Letter was mailed to all A.I.N.A. members residing in the San Diego, California area, inviting them to the "Israel Nite", which was especially arranged by your Association.

Continued from page 20

minting operation, are returned for remelting and reprocessing.

Now the blanks are ready for stamping. This operation is completely automatic. As the blanks are stacked, they are carried to the press one at a time. Then a set of mechanical fingers places each blank into a collar, this collar holds the blank in the correct position as the press drives the dies together with a force of approximately ten tons. If the edge of the coin is to be reeded, the collar contains the pattern. As the metal pushes out against the collar under the force of the press, the reeded pattern is impressed on the coin's edge. The mechanical fingers then remove the finished coin and place it on a conveyor belt which removes it to the counting and distribution section. And, for us, this ends a story that began over two thousand years ago.



The
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Coins and Medals
Corporation
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invites you
to become
a select
subscriber.

For full information write to:
The Office of the Assistant Trade Commissioner
Government of Israel
850 Third Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10022

21st ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL SPECIMEN SETS



Israel's annual Specimen Set of תשכ"ח 1968 features the Holy City of Jerusalem, and includes the newly-designed 1 lira (pound).



for story see page 4

The Pruta Series

1 PRUTA

With this issue of The Shekel, we are starting the *Pruta Series*, for the benefit of our readers. This issue describes the 1 PRUTA in detail.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Metal: Aluminum

Weight: 1.3 gm

Diameter: 21 mm

Year: 5709 (1949)

Edges: Smooth



OBVERSE

In the centre, an anchor, and the word "Israel" in Hebrew and Arabic. This motif was taken from the coins of Alexander Jannaeus that were struck at the beginning of the 1st century BCE. The anchor was the symbol of Hebrew rule over the towns on the seaboard, and of access to the Mediterranean. Later the anchor also appeared on the coins of the Herodian dynasty. Close to the edge is a beaded rim.



REVERSE

Between two stylised olive-branches, the inscription: "1 Pruta - 5709" (in Hebrew letters). Below the line joining the olive-branches appears a tiny dot. The two olive-branches appear for the first time on the coins of the Hasmonean dynasty beginning with those of Yohanan Hyrkanos I (135 - 104 BCE). Between the two olive-branches, the words "Yohanan the High Priest and the Community of the Jews". On the coins of the other Hasmoneans, according to the case, the name is changed to: "Yehuda", "Yehonathan" or "Mattathiah".

The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation
presents through its State Medals

The spirit of Israel



Medal of Valour



Masada



First Settlers Medal



Tower & Stockade



Medal of Liberation



Sinai Campaign



Bar-Kochba



Jerusalem



Exodus

Israel State Medals

All medals are bronze and silver, struck in Israel. The diameter of the Jerusalem medal is 45mm., in both bronze and silver. The diameter of the other medals is 59-60mm. in bronze. In silver, the smaller medals measure 35mm. in diameter and the larger 60mm.

The 9 City Coin-Medal Series

The city coin-medal series, struck by the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation, features nine historical cities of Israel.

The obverse of each depicts a scene or symbol representative of the city that the medal honors. The medal of Jaffa shows the whale, reminding us of Noah's adventures, while that of Tiberias shows a fishing scene at that famous spa. The past of Acre is observed from the sea with its wall built by the crusaders in the foreground and its domed mosque and minaret in the background. The cities of Avdat, Ashkelon, Caesarea and Beit-She'an are represented by the remains of their ancient Greek or Roman architecture. The coin-medal of Lod features its modern airport. Jerusalem seems to be aptly repre-

sented halfway between heaven and earth, between mountains and clouds. The designs are magnificent examples of modern medallic art.

The reverse on each medal features a replica of an ancient bronze coin minted at some time in the past in that city. All the coin-medals are 45 mm. and have been struck in both silver and bronze, the silver numbering 1 to 10,000. The Jerusalem medal is the only one of the 9, that was also minted in gold. The gold medal has a diameter of 35 mm., and a total of 3,000 have been minted. This medal is not available in the U.S.A.

The second A.I.N.A. convention in March has arranged a visit to each of these cities as part of its tour in Israel.

(See back cover.)

W.T.

Join AINA and receive

THE SHEKEL free

Membership dues \$6.00
per year.

**Write to : American Israel
Numismatic Association**

**P. O. Box 3194
Church Street Station
New York, N. Y. 10008**

Continued from page 11

Clubs are in the process of organization in St. Louis, Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia.

We will list all clubs in "The Shekel", with meeting dates and places, so that any of you who travel may attend other meetings and find a warm welcome from kindred souls, all having a common purpose and interest. You will, indeed, be honored guests at such meetings.

Fourthly, a series of one hour lectures, illustrated by slides, are now being prepared by experts for the purpose of loan to affiliated clubs so that they may make their meetings more interesting and instructive. You will be informed when the lectures are completed and full instructions will be given for obtaining them.

And finally, A.I.N.A. is now in the process of attempting to obtain discounts for members in the cost of books pertaining to our interest.

These are some of the benefits that will accrue to our members and it is our firm promise to continue seeking ways to improve the services that we shall supply. As a result, members will not only receive "The Shekel" but will receive other direct and indirect advantages resulting from membership. We would welcome any ideas that members may have to make A.I.N.A. even better.

Israel Nite

At the last A.I.N.A. Annual Conven-

400 Shekels is How Many Dollars?

An Israeli guide told the following story. He was showing a group of American tourists around the Mearat Hamachpela (the tomb of the patriarchs) and told them how Abraham had bought the cave and the land about it for 400 shekels.

At this, one of the tourists perked up and asked:

"How much is that in dollars?"

tion held in San Diego, California, one entire evening was devoted to Israel and Israeli Numismatics.

The speakers were: The Hon. Consul General of Israel Michael Ravid, Russel Rulau, Editor, **WORLD COINS**; Richard S. Yeoman, Editor, **WHITMAN'S NUMISMATIC JOURNAL**; Morris Bram, President, American Israel Numismatic Assn.; Sylvia Haffner, Author of "The History of Modern Israel's Money", and associate editor of "The Shekel".

FILMS: *Within the Circle*, a prize-winning film on historic origins of the coins of Israel; *Children of the Exodus*, latest documentary on Israel.

Continued from page 10

Amsterdam, where he obtained his education at the famous Talmud Torah Etz Haim. His father, Michael de Spinoza from Portugal, came together with his grandfather Abraham to Amsterdam when Baruch was still young. A few times he was "Parnas" (leader) of the Community. Baruch was born on November 24, 1632. He studied medieval Jewish religious philosophy, but because of his knowledge of Latin, he also found his way to other disciplines, in particular natural history. The works of the French philosopher Descartes, a refugee, who also lived in Amsterdam, made a deep impression on him. The respect he had for his father restrained him from declaring his opinions and his alienation from orthodox Jewish religious interpretations. After the death of his father, this changed and he started to avoid visiting the Synagogue. He entered Christian circles.

The Jewish Community did all it could to move him to keep adhering to the Jewish faith, but in vain. Finally, "the little ban" (30 days) was conferred upon him, in which time he had the opportunity to change his mind.

When this did not bring the ex-

pected results, the "great ban" was conferred upon him on July 27, 1656, which consequently led to his expulsion from the Jewish Community. This action must be viewed against the background of the times. The Portuguese Jews who were baptized (Marranos) or were the children of baptized Jews had in every family victims of the Inquisition. The internal peace had become endangered and a milder action might easily have led to anti-semitic actions by the Calvinists.

Among the literary heritage he left his *Ethica* and his *Theologian Political Tractate* which are famous. The latter book was violently fought and the sale of it was prohibited by a resolution of the General States of the Republic of the Seven United Dutch Provinces. Alas, tolerance has not always been as wide as often is claimed, even in free Holland.

No. 88. 1956: Menasseh Ben Israel.

Obverse: A ring of pearls with facing portraits of Oliver Cromwell and Reb Menasseh Ben Israel; in front, a Menorah and two branches of olive leaves. On ribbons, right and left, the names of Menasseh Ben Israel and Cromwell. Above in a small oval, the Ark of the Covenant; and in relief, the name of the designer P. (Paul) Vincze. *Reverse:* Seated female figure, holding in her right hand a scroll with the dates 1656

and 1959, between the dates a Magen David. Her left hand leans on a stone which stands on a book. On the stone in Hebrew characters: Peace be with you. *Inscription:* Resettlement of the Jews in Great Britain 300th Anniversary. Gold, silver and bronze, 56 mm. diam.

This medal was issued in England during the celebration on January 27, 1956 to commemorate the 300th Anniversary of the re-admitting of the Jews into England. Through the good offices of the Amsterdam Rabbi Menasseh Ben Israel it was possible in 1656 to do justice to British Jewry.

* * *

For obvious reasons, it is not possible to name or describe all the items listed in the Polak Catalog.* I had to make a choice and my selection may be a little arbitrary. Fortunately, the catalog is still in stock at Schulman's, Amsterdam. It is bi-lingual. My good friend Leonard S. Forrer has given brief but concise summaries of Dr. Polak's descriptions.

I trust this article gives the Shekel readers an insight into the rich Jewish history, reflected in medallic art. I am proud that in this field my tiny country, generally speaking, is very well represented.

Todah rabah (thank you) to Dr. Arthur Polak and Jacques Schulman for their kind permission to make use of the catalog for The Shekel. Shalom to my readers.



Obverse

88



Reverse

88

26 YEAR GUIDE TO ISRAEL'S COIN DATES

1961	5721	תשכ"א	1948	5708	תש"ח
1962	5722	תשכ"ב	1949	5709	תש"ט
1963	5723	תשכ"ג	1950	5710	תש"י
1964	5724	תשכ"ד	1951	5711	תשי"א
1965	5725	תשכ"ה	1952	5712	תשי"ב
1966	5726	תשכ"ו	1953	5713	תשי"ג
1967	5727	תשכ"ז	1954	5714	תשי"ד
1968	5728	תשכ"ח	1955	5715	תשט"ו
1969	5729	תשכ"ט	1956	5716	תשט"ז
1970	5730	תש"ל	1957	5717	תשי"ז
1971	5731	תשל"א	1958	5718	תשי"ח
1972	5732	תשל"ב	1959	5719	תשי"ט
1973	5733	תשל"ג	1960	5720	תש"ך

5708
1948

Notes:

Denotes the numerical equivalent of the Hebrew year.

Represents the corresponding civil era year.

Note:

All years arranged consecutively are represented, although no coins were minted in some years.

Formula:

To find the Hebrew year for a given date, add the numeral 3760 to it. $1948 + 3760 = 5708$ — year of Israel's rebirth.

ACTUAL
SIZE
OF
COIN-MEDALS

BRONZE AND
SILVER

45 mm.

GOLD

35 mm.

(JERUSALEM ONLY)
(NOT AVAILABLE IN U.S.A.)

ISRAEL'S 9 COIN- MEDALS

ASHKELON



ACRE



TIBERIAS



BEIT SHE'AN



AVDAT



CAESAREA



JAFFA



LOD



JERUSALEM



For details see page 30